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INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

REILLY TAR & CHEMICAL CORPORATION

TO: MR. R. J. BOYLE - INDIANAPOLIS OFFICE: St. Louis Park
FROM: Mr. H. L. Finch DATE: May 21, 1971
SUBJECT: REFINERY FIRE

5/18/71
Tuesday afternoon about 2:30 P.M. we had a small fire start on top of our number 20 mix tank as we were blowing the third of four stills. The fire occurred around the point of entrance of the pipe coming from the stills into the tank. Fumes had been escaping around the pipe and had soaked the insulation, which when raised to the proper temperature caught fire.

The St. Louis Park Fire Department was called and responded in four or five minutes after our call, giving us prompt attention. They had no difficulty in putting out the fire and no one was injured as a result.

There was very little damage from the fire and will necessitate replacing a small part of the insulation on the top of the tank.

As a background to the fire, Mr. Brown had noticed fumes escaping around the pipe approximately a week ago. At that time they checked the entrance of the pipe into the tank and the determination was made that the pipe was not welded to the tank but was merely packed solid with insulation. An attempt was made to seal off the fumes but it was apparently not satisfactory because a fire did occur.

After the fire we checked our number 19 tank and found that the pipe coming from the stills to this tank was welded to the tank. In checking with Mr. Hennessy, he informed us that the proper procedure was to have the pipe welded to the tank and, we therefore proceeded to make this correction.

Today, May 20th, after steaming the tank overnight and while we continued to steam this morning, Mr. Bohn of Bohn Welding welded the pipe to the tank. We are now back in operation with our downtime amounting to about one run.

Yours very truly,

H. L. Finch

HLP:ge

cc: Mr. C. F. Leshner - Indpls.
Mr. R. J. Hennessy - Reilly Lab.

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